GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4948
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2000
ESTABLISHMENT OF COUNSEL
PUTTASWAMY GOWDA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the European Union has made any suggestions to establish a Counsel in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the other points of bilateral interests pending for settlement; and

(d) the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c)&(d) India and the European Union have recently taken several steps to strengthen their relationship. The India-EU Summit held in Lisbon on June 28, 2000 enabled both sides to review bilateral, regional and multilateral issues of mutual concern. The two sides have agreed to forge a new strategic partnership in the 21st century founded on shared values and aspirations and characterised by enhanced and multi-faceted co-operation. The India-EU Summit Declaration provides a blueprint for upgrading the relationship to a qualitatively higher level. An Agenda for Action which encompasses joint initiatives in the political, commercial and economic fields was also agreed upon. The Declaration commits India and the European Union to cooperate to prevent and combat terrorism and to meet the challenges arising from it in the regional and international context. India and the EU will also strive together for a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. An India-EC Agreement on Co-operation in Science & Technology is also being finalised. The second India-EU Summit will be held in New Delhi in the second half of the year 2001.